

CONFIDENTIAL

NFAC #4680/81

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 168/81
28 July 1981
Copy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

FROM: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: NIE 11-12, "Soviet Military Technology and Research and Development"

1. I have approved the production of a new estimate on Soviet military technology and research and development. While NIE 11-12-80 made an important contribution to our consumers, there are a number of additional areas that need to be evaluated. Also, in addition to the problems with NIE 11-12-80 cited by DIA during its preparation, the Chairman of the NIE, users of the estimate, and DCI consultants have pointed out certain weaknesses in the estimate. I also note that our assessment of potential military applications of Soviet technology will bear importantly on US programs for weapon systems whose operational life will extend to the 1990s and beyond. For these reasons I have concluded that a new NIE is warranted, not just a Memorandum to Holders. [redacted]

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2. Production of the estimate will require contributions from several Department of Defense organizations, and like last year's NIE it will contain comparisons of Soviet and US technologies. For these reasons, and in view of your objections to some aspects of NIE 11-12-80, I have directed that the concept paper, Terms of Reference and production plan be prepared in collaboration with DIA for subsequent approval by the National Intelligence Council and coordination with NFIB agencies. [redacted]

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3. [redacted] Office of Scientific and Weapons Research, CIA, has been appointed to manage the preparation of the estimate. Appointment of a Chairman for the estimate is pending. In the meantime, the Acting NIO for Strategic Programs (telephone [redacted]) has been requested to initiate the preparation process. Please inform the NIO/SP of the DIA officer designated to work with [redacted] in developing plans for producing the NIE. [redacted]

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Henry S. Rowen

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